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Message Text

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73
ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 /018 R

66011
DRAFTED BY AF/C:EFFUGIT:LAR
APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN
---------- 115076
O 242047Z FEB 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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FOL RPT KINSHASA 1529 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN NEW YORK 20 FEB.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, AO, CG
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE

REF: KINSHASA 1139

1. METHODIST MISSIONARY WENDELL GOLDEN, WHO COOPERATES WITH MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (MCC) GROUP WORKING AMONG ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN BAS ZAIRE, TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER FEBRUARY 19 THAT SOME 12,000 REFUGEES FROM NORTHERN ANGOLA ARRIVED IN BAS ZAIRE FEB-RUARY 18. REFUGEES HAVE BEEN SETTLED, TEMPORARILY AT LEAST, IN REGION AROUND SANGOLOLO. FOOD AND BASIC MEDICINES ARE URGENTLY NEEDED. MAKE-DO ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE LOCALLY, BUT FUNDS TO PURCHASE ARE LACKING. UNHCR REPORTEDLY IS DOING NOTHING. RED CROSS IS PRESENT, BUT SWAMPED. GOLDEN ASKED IF USG COULD MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO MEET THIS IMMEDIATE NEED.

COMMENT:
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2. EMBASSY URGES SWIFT AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION. AT PRESENT

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JUNCTURE, POSITIVE, TIMELY RESPONSE TO THIS HUMANITARIAN REQUEST SEEMS CLEARLY IN US INTEREST. MCC IS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION LONG ENGAGED IN EFFECTIVE RELIEF WORK AMONG ANGOLAN REFUGEES. DESPITE ANTICIPATION PARA 9 OF REFTEL, UNHCR HAS NOT REACTED POSITIVELY TO IMMEDIATE FOOD NEEDS OF REFUGEES NOW ENTERING BAS ZAIRE. UNHCR FUNDS GIVEN TO ECZ (PROTESTANT UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION) GO INSTEAD TO SCHOOLS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR ANGOLANS ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN ZAIRE. IF DISPOSED TO FAVOR THIS REQUEST, DEPARTMENT MIGHT CONSIDER CHANNELING FUNDS DIRECTLY THROUGH MCC AKRON, PENNSYLVANIA. EMBASSY OR USAID OFFICER COULD MONITOR RELIEF DELIVERY THIS END.

3. EMBASSY STILL AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONSE TO OTHER REQUESTS (FNLA/UNITA) REPORTED PARA 6 REFTEL.
WALKER

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, MEDICAL CARE, REFUGEE RELIEF, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE044378
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EFFUGIT:LAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760069-0563
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760217/aaaaaown.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KINSHASA 1139
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <06 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE
TAGS: SREF, SWEL, AO, CG, (GOLDEN, WENDELL)
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006